

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----119762 241632Z /50

O 241530Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7121
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0211

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS TO EMBARGO LIFTING REPORTS

REF: (A) NICOSIA 0209, (B) NICOSIA 0184, (C) NICOSIA 0182

1. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR NICOS ROLANDIS CALLED EMBASSY JAN 24 TO SAY PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HAD ASKED HIM TO REENFORCE THE PRESIDENT'S DEMARCH OF JAN 23. PRESIDENT WAS "VERY TROUBLED", ROLANDIS SAID, AND HAD HAD CONSULTATIONS DURING MUCH OF THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF JAN 23 ABOUT REPORTS FROM ANKARA THAT THE US HAD PROMISED TO PUSH FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO BY THE END OF MARCH ROLANDIS, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF KYPRIANOU'S NEWS-PAPER ELEFThERI KYPROS, ASKED FOR THE TEXT OF ALL PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S ANKARA VISIT AND FOR A BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

2. WE PASSED COPIES OF ECEVIT PRESS CONFERENCE TRANSCRIPT AND
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SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT/ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TO ROLANDIS AND EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT THE STATUS OF DCA WAS STILL THAT IT WAS BEFORE CONGRESS; THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT PRESSED THE CONGRESS TO TAKE EARLY ACTION ON ITS RATIFICATION.

3. AFTER STUDYING THE DOCUMENTS, ROLANDIS SAID THAT IT APPEARED THAT CURRENT UPROAR IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS (REF A) SEEMED NOT TO BE

BASED ON FACT BUT ON SPECULATION. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER PUBLISHING A STORY TO THIS EFFECT IN HIS OWN NEWSPAPER IN THE HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT HELP TO DEFUSE THE LOCAL SITUATION. HE ALSO WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT. ON REVIEWING THE ACTUAL TEXT OF THE ECEVIT AND VANCE STATEMENTS HE FELT THAT THE BACKGROUNDER GIVEN BY GOC PIO ON JAN 23 WAS PREMATURE (REF B); THE GOC SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL A RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE US TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S DEMARCHE BEFORE MAKING ANY PUBLIC SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. HE WOULD SAY SO TO KYPRIANOU.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, ROLANDIS SAID, KYPRIANOU WAS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE ON JAN 23 FROM MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY (THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY) AND OTHERS TO TAKE ACTION CONDEMNING US FOR REPORTED INTENTION TO SEEK LIFTING OF EMBARGO. ANY INDICATION THAT US IS CONSIDERING SUCH ACTION, SUCH AS THE REPORTS FROM ANKARA ATTRIBUTED TO OFFICIALS CLOSE TO THE SECRETARY, PROVIDES THOSE IN CYPRUS OPPOSED TO COOPERATION WITH THE WEST AN EXCUSE TO CRITICIZE THE US.

5. IN A LATER CONVERSATION JAN 24, FONOFF DIRGEN PELAGHIAS SAID GOC BELIEVES TURKISH POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS HAS HARDENED PERCEPTIBLY IN THE WAKE OF SECRETARY'S VANCE'S VISIT TO ANKARA. UNSYG WALDHEIM HAD SAID THAT THE AGREED PROCEDURE WAS FOR TURKISH SIDE TO PRESENT CONCRETE AND COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS TO HIM. HE WOULD STUDY THEM AND IF HE DECIDED THEY FORMED THE BASIS FOR A MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATION HE WOULD TRANSMIT THEM TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE. UNSYG SAID ECEVIT HAD PROMISED THAT PROPOSALS WOULD BE READY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. NOW, IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT FROM ANKARA AND ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN ERCAN TFSC "PRESIDENT" DENKTASH HAD SAID THAT PROPOSALS WOULD NOT BE READY FOR PRESENTATION BEFORE THREE TO FOUR WEEKS. CONCRETE PROPOSALS WOULD BE PRESENTED DIRECTLY TO GREEK CYPRIOTS AND AN OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS WOULD INCIDENTALLY BE PRESENTED TO UNSYG. GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD HAVE TO PRESENT COUNTER PROPOSALS. COMMENT: THIS DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF DENKTASH'S STATEMENTS. OUR RECORDS DO NOT HAVE HIM SAYING GREEK CYPRIOTS MUST SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS OR THAT THE PROPOSALS HE GIVES TO GREEK CYPRIOTS WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT THAN THOSE HE GIVES TO UNSYG. END COMMENT.

6. PELAGHIAS' ANALYSIS WAS THAT, AS IN EVERY HIGHLEVEL VISIT, SECRETARY VANCE WORKED TO ACHIEVE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF HARMONY WITH HIS TURKISH HOSTS. TURKS HAD PROBABLY TAKEN SOME OF THE NORMAL, WARM AND FRIENDLY LANGUAGE OF SUCH A VISIT AND EXTRAPLATED UPON IT TO CONVINCING THEMSELVES THAT US ADMINISTRATION WILL PRESS SOON FOR RATIFICATION OF DCA. THIS ILLUSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THAT GOT FLEXIBILITY ON CYPRUS ERODES WHENEVER TURKS PERCEIVE THAT THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS WILL NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY TAKING HARD LINE.

7. COMMENT: OUR CONVERSATIONS OF JAN 24 REFLECT AN INCREASING CONCERN ON THE PART OF GOC OFFICIALS THAT GOC WILL FIND ITSELF IN OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH US ON RATIFICATION OF TURKISH DCA. KYPRIANOU IS CLEARLY TROUBLED BY THE SUGGESTION THAT HE WAS EITHER MISLED BY PRESIDENT CARTER OR THAT HE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE ASSURANCES THAT US WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH RATIFICATION OF DCA WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON CYPRUS KYPRIANOU'S SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS ON PUBLIC RECORD AS HAVING CLAIMED TO HAVE OFFICIAL US ASSURANCES THAT THE EMBARGO WOULD NOT BE LIFTED BEFORE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM (77 NICOSIA 3224). HIS ASSOCIATES ARE BEGINNING TO SUGGEST THAT EVEN A PRIVATE ASSURANCE BY THE USG THAT THERE WILL BE NO MOVEMENT ON DCA WILL NOT BE
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SATISFACTORY, THAT THE US WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME SORT OF PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS IN ORDER TO PREVENT A PERIOD OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, EMBARGOES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NICOSI00211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0757
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780129/aaaaaygf.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15e5a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 NICOSIA 209, 78 NICOSIA 184, 78 NICOSIA 182
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3723546
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER REACTIONS TO EMBARGO LIFTING REPORTS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15e5a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014